

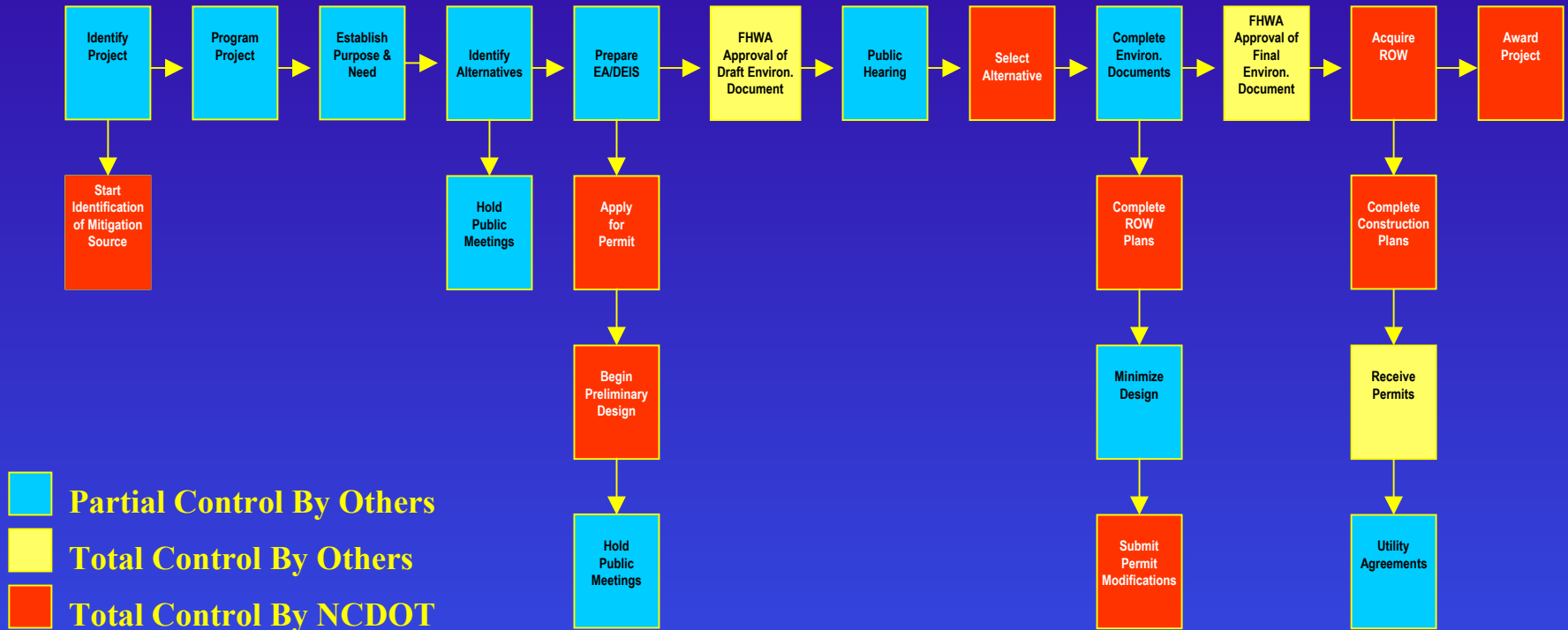
Environmental Streamlining

**Environmental Planning and Policy
Committee**

July 11, 2001

NCDOT-Preconstruction Process

Major Activities & Milestones



Goal: To ensure a transportation improvement meets need in the least environmentally damaging practical way

Background

- Process can take up to 10+ years
- Multi-party negotiation
- Potential conflicts in missions as defined by law
- Goal is optimized decision acceptable to all agencies

What is Environmental Streamlining?

**Effective and timely project decision-
making without compromising
environmental quality**

Challenges

- Building trust and partnership for shared decision-making
- Joint agreement to improve process for timely decision-making
- Federal and state agencies

Partnership

- Improved communication
- Memoranda of understanding
- DOT, DENR, & ACOE joint sponsorship of process improvements
- DOT paid positions (federal and state resources agencies)
- Best Management Practices-Operations

Process Initiatives

- NEPA/404 Merger Process
- Pre-TIP Process
- Establishing elevation processes to expedite resolution of issues
- On-going process improvements
 - Mitigation
 - Programming and/or Pre-TIP
 - Permitting

Permitting Process Improvement

- Staff identified several sub-processes creating delays and/or conflict
- DENR/DOT/ACOE sponsored process improvement
- Selected structured process improvement methodology
 - Quick turnaround
 - Team effort
 - Link to implementation
- First process selected-Permitting

Permitting Process Improvement

- **Purpose:** Improve workflow effectiveness and efficiency of the permit development, coordination, and issuance process
- **Goal:** Improve the permitting process that supports the timely delivery of projects while minimizing disruption to the environment

Permitting Process Improvement

- New Process
- Over 70 recommendations
- Over 25 recommendations to management
 - Legislative/Policy
 - Resources
 - Additional Process Improvements
- Remainder within team authority to implement

Permitting Process Improvement

- Shorter process (2 years)
- Estimated 33% cost savings for permit development
- Better predictability to meet schedules
- Closer coordination and cooperation among agencies
- Better projects with better environmental protection

Federal Initiative

Environmental Streamlining Laboratory

- Environmental stewardship policy
- Build trust and create effective working relationships
- Develop mutual goals related to transportation and the environment with our local, state, and federal partners
- Engage the public and resource agencies early
- Use context sensitive design and maintenance strategies
- Continually seek to improve our processes

Where are we?

- Strong partnerships with all agencies
- Commitment of EPPC to develop environmental ethic policy
- Process Improvements underway
- Development of joint DENR/DOT work plans underway

What's Next?

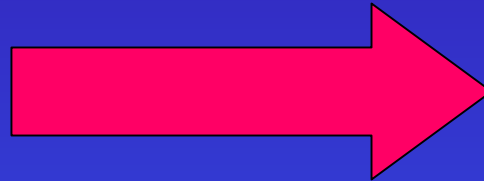
- DOT Environmental Ethic Policy
- Department-wide inventory of activities
- Development of coordinated action plan
- Conduct process improvement workshops for mitigation and Pre-TIP/Programming

Summary

- Environmental streamlining = better, faster
- Lots of people already doing good things
- Future improvements will lead to delivering better transportation projects in a more environmentally responsible manner

What is Environmental Streamlining?

An improved,
more efficient
transportation
planning and
environmental
review process



Better and faster

What is Environmental Streamlining?

- **Effective and timely project decision-making without compromising environmental quality**
 - **Building trust**
 - **Mutual acceptance of mission**
 - **Consistency in environmental policies and practices**
 - **Efficient processes**
 - **Early identification of problems and issues**
 - **Complete and honest communication**
 - **Integration of multiple decision-making processes (long range planning, NEPA and permitting processes)**
 - **Dispute resolution mechanisms**

Our Goal...

To meet public expectations, we must change our agency's culture to embrace the concept of environmental stewardship throughout our organization, improve our business practices through continuous process improvement, and work collaboratively with interested stakeholders to make better decisions and deliver our products and services expeditiously.

**TRANSPORTATION
NEEDS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP**



**ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENTS**

Goal

To create a timely, shared decision-making process that results in a transportation system that meets the mobility needs of our customers, enhances the livability of the communities that our transportation systems serve, and minimizes the impact that our decisions have on the natural and human environment.